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(54) Title: **FUNCTIONAL LIGAND DISPLAY**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to methods involving the selection of peptides from complex displayed libraries to induce or detect signal transduction pathway activation. In one embodiment, the present invention provides methods for the selection of peptides capable of binding a viable cell and subsequently triggering or detecting programmed cell death (e.g., apoptosis). The present invention also provides compositions comprising the selected peptides suitable for medicinal and research use.